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1. As is well known, all information pertaining to tonnage transported in the USSR is classified secret and in certain cases even top secret. Occasionally, however, it is possible to arrive at a good estimate by using indirect methods. Such an opportunity is offered by an article, written by P. Sukhorukov, an engineer, for Morskoy Flot, the organ of the Ministry of the Merchant Fleet. See No 11, November 1951, p 32-35. In this article, entitled "Economy Drive for Fuel and Lubricants" (Za Ekonomiyu Topliva i Smazki), Sukhorukov gives certain percentage data on the saving of fuels and lubricants achieved by the Soviet Merchant Fleet during the 1950 campaign. On the basis of these data, [redacted] the total tonnage of cargo transported by the Soviet Merchant Fleet in 1950 was about 56 million tons.

2. The data presented by Engineer Sukhorukov are as follows:

In 1950 the Soviet Merchant Fleet fulfilled its transportation plan 105.5 per cent, and at the same time it consumed 1.67 per cent less fuel than provided for in the plan. Since the transport plan was over-fulfilled by 5.5 per cent, the total fuel economy was 7.2 per cent (1.67 + 5.5), which represents a value of 19.7 million rubles. This saving in fuel has permitted the fleet to transport 900 thousand extra tons of cargo in 1950.

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3. Starting from the figures given by Sukhorukov, [] calculations by two methods to arrive at the total of 56 million tons. The first method is based on the fuel saving, the second on the ruble saving. The details are as follows:

- (a) If 1.67 per cent of saving in fuel permitted the merchant fleet to transport 0.9 million extra tons of cargo, 100 per cent of authorized fuel, fully used, resulted in the transport of 55 million tons of cargo. ($100 \times 0.9 = 55$ million). To this figure must be added the 1.67 900 thousand tons transported on the savings achieved, which gives a total very close to 56 million tons.
- (b) The economy of 7.2 per cent of the fuel assigned by the plan to the Merchant Fleet has saved the USSR 19.7 million rubles. This means that 1.67 per cent of fuel has the value of 4.6 million rubles ($19.7 \times 1.67 = 4.6$ million).

At the average price of fuel (coal, mazut, Diesel oil) of 200 rubles per ton, the actual saving in fuel amounted to 0.023 million tons (4.6 million rubles divided by 200 rubles equal 0.023 million tons). Now, if 1.67 per cent of fuel represent 0.023 million tons, 100 per cent would be 1.4 million tons of fuel as provided by the plan for 1950. ($0.023 \times 100 = 1.4$ million). Finally if 0.023 million tons

1.67 of fuel used resulted in the transport of 0.9 million extra tons of cargo, 1.4 million tons of fuel were used for the transport of 55 million tons of cargo. ($1.4 \times 0.9 = 55$ million). [] add to these 55 million tons the 0.9 million tons transported on the fuel which was saved, [] approximately 56 million tons. This figure represents the total amount of cargo transported by the Soviet Merchant Fleet in 1950.

Comment: The calculations made [] on the basis of percentages given by a Soviet engineer in a semi-official publication may appear somewhat strange to economists. It may be added that [] based [] on the statement made in the article that 7.2 per cent of economy in fuel represented 19.7 rubles. The editor assumes no responsibility as to the accuracy or value of such calculations beyond the fact that they evidently make sense to a Soviet engineer who has dealt personally with plans and percentages

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